

containing the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 8].

#### Neiveli Lignite Project

\*36. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 757 on the 16th August, 1955 and state:

(a) the progress made in the matter of working the lignite mines at Neiveli after the installation of the submersible pumps;

(b) the rate at which water pumped out of the mines; and

(c) when Government expect to start extraction of the lignite?

**The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) An order was placed for the remaining eight submersible type pumps to make up the total of 12 turbine and 12 submersible-type pumps each with a capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute. These are required for large-scale pumping tests to assess the ground water conditions at Neiveli. Eight pumps have arrived at the site so far, eight are expected to arrive shortly and the rest may arrive in January, 1956. The electric power required to operate 20 pumping sets is likely to be made available in January, 1956. In the meantime, drilling, casing and development of pump holes is in progress for which additional equipment has been obtained.

(b) Large-scale pumping tests will start soon after the pumps have been installed and requisite quantity of electric power is available.

(c) It is too early to forecast a date. Mining operations cannot begin till results of the pumping tests have been found to be satisfactory and necessary equipment is procured.

#### Bhakra Nangal Project

\*37. { **Dr. Satyawadi:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing the details of the damage caused to the Bhakra Irrigation and Power system by the recent floods in Punjab?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 9].

#### Salt

\*38. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Estimates Committee as contained in paras. 107 and 92 of their Fifteenth Report regarding the removal of price control on salt and the formation of an autonomous Salt Board have been considered; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dabey):** (a) and (b). As pointed out by the Estimates Committee in Para 111 of their Fifteenth Report, the price of salt is not subject to any price control by the Centre. Certain State Governments are, however, continuing the price control on salt and they have been advised that such control should be removed as soon as the circumstances permit.

The recommendation of the Estimates Committee regarding the formation of an autonomous Salt Board is still under consideration.

#### Jute Tribunal

\*39. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the effect of wage award of the Third Jute Tribunal on the jute export trade and prices of raw jute?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** Information has been received that the Labour Union have appealed against this award and the Indian Jute Mills Association have counter-appealed. Under these circumstances, I do not wish to comment on the effect of the award at present.

#### Community Development Projects

\*40. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the names of Asian countries whose delegations have visited community Development Project areas so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra):** Delegations from the following Asian Countries have visited Community Project areas in India:

Philippines.

Indonesia.

Burma.

Ceylon.

Pakistan.

Iran.

Iraq.

Thailand.